

Service Date: February 25, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)	
by GREAT FALLS GAS COMPANY To Adopt)	UTILITY DIVISION
Increased Rates For Gas Service.)	DOCKET NO. 80.6.33
_____)	ORDER NO. 4741a

INTERIM RATE ORDER

1. On June 5, 1980 Great Falls Gas Company (Applicant) applied to the Commission for authority to increase rates charged for natural gas service. The proposed tariffs filed with the application would increase billings to Great Falls Gas customers by \$498,459 over those of the test year.

2. In the original application, the Applicant applied to the Commission for an interim rate increase in the full amount of \$498,459 subject to rebate upon issuance of a final order.

3. On January 8 and 9, 1981, the Commission conducted a hearing in Great Falls Montana on Applicant's requested rate increase.

4. On January 26, 1981 the Commission issued Order No. 4741 which granted interim relief in the amount of \$85,031.

5. The Commission at this time determines that further interim relief is warranted. Total interim relief of \$265,868 is found to be appropriate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Great Falls Gas Company is a public utility furnishing natural gas service to consumers in the state of Montana. As such it is subject to the supervision, regulation and control of this Commission, Section 69-3-102, MCA.

2. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides in part, "The Commission may in its discretion, temporarily approve increases pending a hearing or final decision."

3. If the final decision of the Commission is to disapprove the increase granted on an interim basis, the Commission will order a rebate thereof to all consumers, Section 39-3-304, MCA.

ORDER

THEREFORE, THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS
THAT:

1. The Great Falls Gas Company is hereby granted authority to implement on an interim basis increased rates designed to generate additional \$265,868 revenue on an annual basis

2. This interim relief is not in addition but rather replaces the revenue granted in Order No. 4741.

3. The Great Falls Gas Company is to file revised rate schedules spreading the increased revenues to the existing customer classes on a uniform percentage basis, which maintains the 25% lifeline discount.

DOCKET NO. 80.6.33, INTERIM RATE ORDER NO. 4741a

4. Nothing in this Interim Order precludes the Commission from adopting in its final order after reviewing the entire record in this docket, a revenue requirement or rate structure different from that contained in this order.

5. The interim relief granted in this order is to be effective for service rendered on and after February 23, 1981.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION this 23rd day of February, 1981 by a 4 - O vote.

DOCKET NO. 80.6.33, INTERIM RATE ORDER NO. 4741a

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

Howard L. Ellis, Commissioner

Clyde Jarvis, Commissioner

Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion For Reconsideration is filed judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this order. If a Motion For Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purpose of appeal upon the entry of a ruling on that motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. The Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 2-4-702, MCA, and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38.2.4806, ARM.